DOUGLAS ADAMS

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

FOLIO

DOUGLAS ADAMS
LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING
FOLIO

that was Infinitely Improbable was actually very likely to happen almost immediately.

The *Starship Titanic* was a monstrously pretty sight as it lay beached like a silver Arcturan Megavoidwhale amongst the laser-lit tracery of its construction gantries, a brilliant cloud of pins and needles of light against the deep interstellar blackness; but when launched, it did not even manage to complete its very first radio message – an SOS – before undergoing a sudden and gratuitous total existence failure.

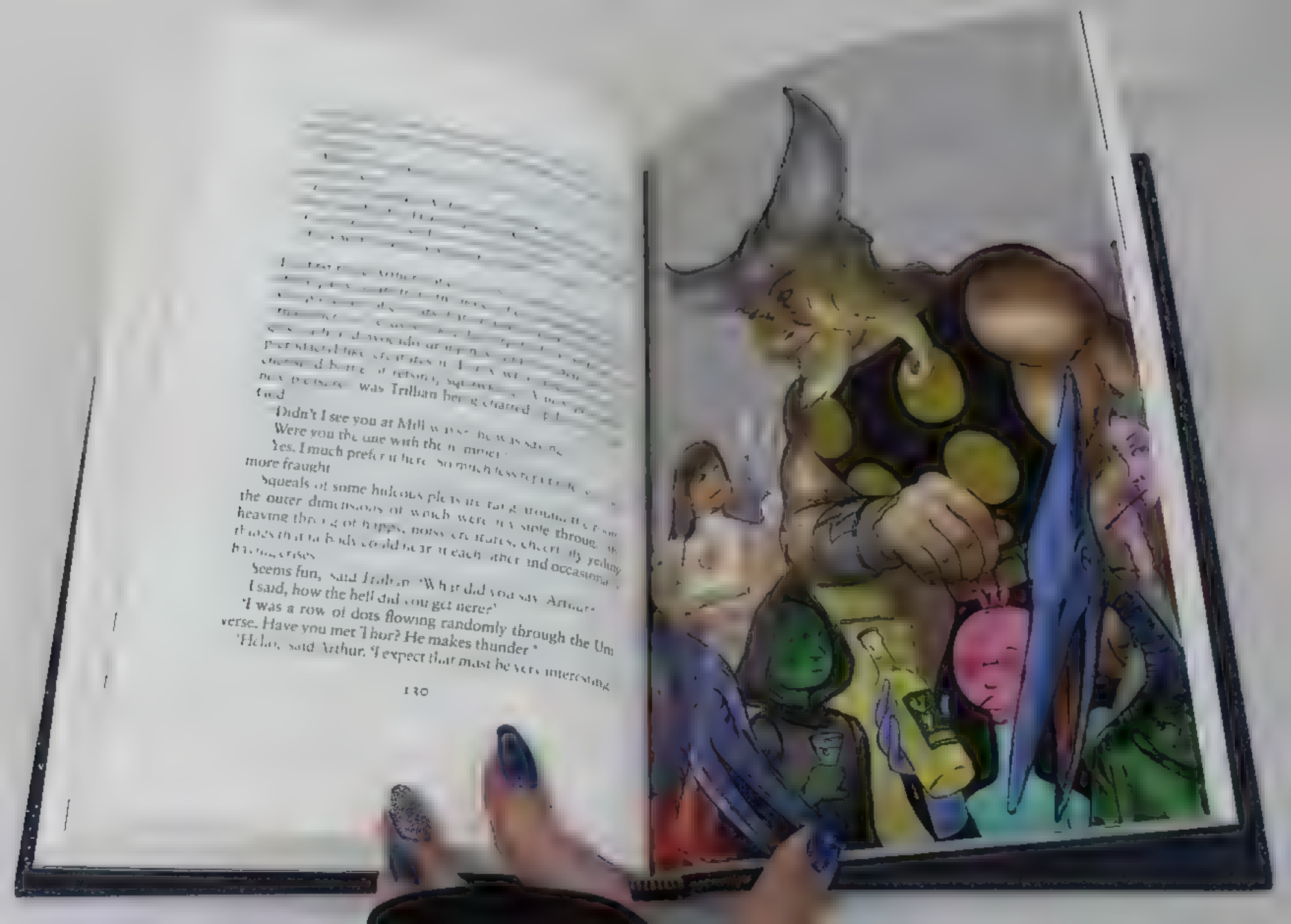
However, the same event which saw the disastrous failure of one science in its infancy also witnessed the apotheosis of another. It was conclusively proved that more people watched tri-D TV coverage of the launch than actually existed at the time, and this has now been recognised as the greatest achievement ever in the science of audience research.

Another spectacular media event of that time was the supernova which the star Ysllodins underwent a few hours later. Ysllodins is the star around which most of the Galaxy's major insurance underwriters live, or rather lived.

But whilst these spaceships, and other great ones which come to mind, such as the Galactic Fleet Battleships – the GSS *Daring*, the GSS *Audacity* and the GSS *Suicidal Insanity* – are all spoken of with awe, pride, enthusiasm, affection, admiration, regret, jealousy, resentment, in fact most of the better-known emotions, the one which regularly commands the most actual astonishment was *Krikkit One*, the first spaceship ever built by the people of Krikkit.

This is not because it was a wonderful ship. It wasn't.

It was crazy piece of near junk. It looked as if it had been knocked up in somebody's backyard, and this was in fact precisely where it had been knocked up. The astonishing thing about the ship was not that it was done well (it wasn't) but that it was done at all. The period of time which had



Didn't I see you at Mill
Were you the one with the
Yes. I much prefer it here
more fraught

Squeals of some hideous pleasure
the outer dimensions of which were
heaving throng of hippos, noisy
those that no body could hear
human cries

Seems fun, said Trillian. 'What did you say Arthur
I said, how the hell did you get here?'
'I was a row of dots flowing randomly through the Un
verse. Have you met Thor? He makes thunder.'
'Helen, said Arthur, 'I expect that must be very interesting

130